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Work and Workers.

AN interesting experiment in ways of awakening interest among men in Sunday-school work has been tried in the city of Cleveland, Ohio, with marked success. The pastor, Rev. E. A. Hanley, D.D., three years ago formed a class for men which was to meet every Sunday. They had a definite purpose both in study and work. The results of this effort will perhaps be of aid to others.

The membership of the class includes men from various professions and occupations, with several college students. The class has the usual officers and committees, with the additional features of provision for securing positions for unemployed members, for aiding one another in finding homes, and for arranging for socials, suppers, picnics, etc. The sessions of the class last one hour, and the program usually includes singing, prayer, business, discussion, introduction of new members and strangers, and the lesson. The lessons began with studies in Acts. Since then the class has taken brief courses in the sayings of Jesus; a survey of the Pentateuch; Amos and Hosea; and is now working on the harmony of the gospels. The work has grown gradually, and on this account has been suggestive rather than systematic. The aim has been to bring the men face to face with the Bible. The men are free to ask questions, and they engage heartily in the discussions. All matters are dealt with frankly and reverently. Occasionally special subjects are discussed. On one occasion a physician gave a talk on leprosy, on another a lawyer suggested difficulties in divorce reform, and on a third a business man talked on whether competition is Christian. These and many other subjects arise naturally and are taken up in connection with Bible study. Sometimes men are called in from the outside, such as returned missionaries, and representatives of associated charities. Whenever a question too large to be treated by the class has arisen, it has been referred to a committee, which formulates resolutions, and reports to the class. In this way petitions have been sent to members of Congress, and to the General Passenger Association regarding Sunday excursions, and resolutions have been drawn up, supporting the local authorities in their efforts to suppress gambling. These matters are usually disposed of in fifteen minutes, after which the class proceeds to the lesson. Thus the men are deepening their knowledge of the Bible and are educating themselves in practical Christian living.

A recent experience of this class is worth recording. The men were

asked to visit a mission in the slum district of the city, the pastor to preach, and the men to serve coffee and rolls after the service. Twenty men of the class went, and sat on the front seats. Most of these men had never been in a mission before. The earnestness and seriousness of those seeking the Savior greatly impressed them. They went home fairly on fire with religious zeal for active work, and are eager to go again.

The work of the class is deepening in interest and enlarging in scope. The aim is Bible study, good fellowship, and practical Christian living. Last fall this same class, now numbering one hundred members, held a series of tent meetings, which were eminently successful. The class is now organizing a chorus of thirty voices to sing at Sunday evening service.

The most notable fact concerning this class is that it was organized among a few faithful but disheartened people, who were endeavoring, under great disadvantages, to support a struggling church in the finest residence part of the city. The pastor had organized a men's club which had a membership of seventy for the first year, but the second year it lost interest and numbers. The men's class was organized to succeed, in a sense, the relatively unsuccessful club. The first year this numbered fifteen; the second, thirty-five; the third, eighty. Then it was that the two organizations combined forces in the class for men that is now doing such efficient work, and gaining in individual Christian power and knowledge.

The record of this experiment, one of many successful ones in the same general direction, strongly suggests as among the secrets of success in such work, an attractive personality in the leader, resourcefulness and inventiveness in adapting the work to the situation, and emphasis on the one side on the Bible as the basis of the structure, and on the other on the connection between biblical truth and the real problems of modern life as exemplified in local conditions.